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FRANK A. MUNSEY.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1908.

Up and Down.

It is estimated that there are at least 350,000 idle freight cars on American tracks. Less than a year ago the railroads were 150,000 cars short, and the American Railway Association found it necessary to impose the famous per diem fine. That is, a road had to pay 50 cents a day for the use of an outside or foreign car. This rule worked well enough while traffic was running high, but when the slump came the penalty swung round and became a waste investment.

According to one report, the railroads still operating under this arrangement have spent several million dollars in their endeavor to send empty cars home. The matter, in fact, has assumed such serious proportions that the association will hold a special meeting in Chicago this week to consider the rule. The probability is that it will be suspended until the press of traffic again demands a penalty. In that case the "empties" will remain where they are until needed.

The situation may indicate how hard, from one side and another, the railroads of the country have been hit in the last few months. It makes easily credible the statement that this is a record-breaking case of up and down.

Two Manuals.

Manuel is a great name in Portuguese history. But this young Manuel II ascends a throne whose power is but a tattered remnant of the might and glory that in the time of Manuel I made Portugal one of the foremost monarchies of Europe.

The first Manuel reigned 300 years ago, when Portugal was one of the leaders in commerce and discovery, and when Lisbon was the great distributing center of the products of the East. It was during the reign of the first Manuel that Vasco de Gama achieved his successful passage to India by sea; that Brazil was discovered and added to the Portuguese dominions; that Albuquerque took his pick of lands toward the rising sun.

But it was soon after Manuel's death that the tide turned, and since then, when in trouble, Portugal has always turned, as she turns now, to England for assistance. It was with the help of England that in 1668 Portugal snatched back the independence that Spain had stolen from her. "But her ancient glory had departed," says the historian; "she had lost many of her colonies, and of those she still retained Brazil alone was prosperous; the nation was steeped in ignorance and bigotry; and the Portuguese from having been one of the greatest maritime powers of Europe, became virtually a commercial dependent, rather than ally, of Great Britain, especially after the Methuen treaty of 1703."

As the Cars Stop Today.

About the time this paper is put in the hands of its readers the street cars of the Capital Traction Company will stop for a moment this afternoon. Wherever they are, they will by this means bring to the minds of crew and passengers alike the realization that one has passed away to whom, not the Capital Traction system alone, but the whole city owes much.

This recognition was abundantly earned by George T. Dunlop. He gave the mature years of a long life to the development of street car facilities in the Capital. His work was done well. Few lines in the whole country have been operated as regularly or kept as modern in equipment as those of Fourteenth and Seventh streets, Pennsylvania avenue, and Connecticut avenue extended.

The organization of this system and its business-like operation were Mr. Dunlop's chief labor. But they were not his only value to the District of Columbia. He was a conservative but energetic influence in its commercial life generally. He was an earnest churchman. He was a frequent contributor to the Capital's charities. And his influence as a citizen otherwise was not only good, but active.

No city has ever had too many men of this stamp. Every city is inclined to think of them too little. As your car stops this afternoon, therefore, or as you read of Mr. Dunlop's funeral in the news col-

umns, put business and worry out of your mind for the moment, and be grateful for his labors and his influence.

For the Good of Washington.

During three years these columns have urged the shirt-sleeves advantage to Washington of having its business bodies united. In that time two of those bodies—the Business Men's Association and the Jobbers and Shippers' Association—have come together and formed the Chamber of Commerce, with unquestioned profit to the city. The Times feels now a particular sense of gratification in the prospect that this movement may be continued to its logical fulfillment, and this new organization and the Board of Trade be made one.

The offer has gone forth from the younger and more active of the two. Having proven its stability by a year of hustle and results, with dues higher than any similar body has ever charged in the District of Columbia, and on the eve of opening quarters which will provide local and visiting business men with the advantages of a commercial club, it could propose this action without likelihood of being misunderstood. If the proffer shall be favorably received by the Board of Trade, all honor to both bodies for thinking first of their city, and not of themselves. If it shall not be so received, it is the judgment of The Times that the Chamber of Commerce will have recommended itself to still more of the confidence and faith of the District.

The reasons why these two institutions should double their strength and halve their expenses are nearly obvious. They now spend about \$7,000 a year apiece to maintain their offices. Half the total, or a little more, would pay the expenses of the two when brought together. With dues at \$20 a year, there would then be left a usable and sizable fund for things beyond rent, stenographers' pay, luncheons, and annual excursions. The income of the Chamber of Commerce already provides such a fund, but the city would profit in dollars and cents if it were larger. The merger would also eliminate the present duplication of service, the present division of interest, and a rivalry which is not likely always to be healthful.

One objection has been urged so far. It is that a new body with low dues might soon come into existence. Let it come. The city will then be better off than it is now. For in one body it will have the united strength of the men most active for its welfare, and today they are divided. And if there is now in Washington the public spirit prerequisite to this union of forces, a new association which undertakes to obstruct that spirit is not likely to attain an imposing strength.

There doesn't seem to be as big a stench in this lumber episode as one would naturally think.

While there may be some considerable difference of opinion as to the sale of American girls to foreign husbands, there is no doubt that most of them are "sold" all right.

Checks as good as receipts except when they are for kisses, as one gay New Yorker, who has been sued for \$20,000 for breach of promise, has discovered.

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Another case of "show me" has developed in Missouri. A college has refused to believe the Jonah and the whale story. The professors admit having seen Bryan, but the trouble is they demand to see a whale.

Senator Knox's term doesn't expire until 1911. There are no indications that he will not serve out the full time.

There is no limit to the extent to which a woman will go after a man. Two of them in Virginia are reported to have gone down into a well after one.

EASY TO DRIFT.

Easy to drift to the open sea. The tides are eager and swift and And whistling and free are the rushing winds— But, oh, to get back is hard and long.

Easy as told in Arabian tale. To free from his jar the evil spirit, He rises like smoke to stupendous size— But, oh, nevermore, can we prison him tight.

Easy as told in an English tale. To fashion a Frankenstein body and soul. And breathe in his bosom a breath of life— But, oh, we create what we cannot control.

Easy to drift to the sea of doubt. Easy to hurt what we cannot heal. Easy to rouse what we cannot soothe. Easy to speak what we do not feel. Easy to show what we ought to conceal.

Easy to think that fancy is fate. And, oh, the wisdom that comes too late! —Oliver Huckel.

January Circulation Figures

Net Daily Average:

The Times.....41,501

The Star.....37,128

FAVOR AMENDMENT FOR ALDRICH BILL

Congress May Substitute Commercial Paper for Railroad Bonds.

Declared to Be as Good Security for Emergency Circulation.

The opponents of the Aldrich currency bill now concede that with some minor amendments that measure is likely to pass Congress, and become law this session. One important amendment, however, is being urged by the supporters of the American Bankers' Association plan of revision.

This amendment would provide that emergency circulation may be issued on the security of selected commercial paper, in addition to Federal, State, county, and city bonds; at the same time eliminating railroad bonds from the list. In other words, the proposal is to substitute the best class of commercial paper for railroad bonds.

Has House Support.

This proposal has received so much support in the House of Representatives that it is regarded as quite likely to be engrafted on the plan finally adopted. It represents the demand of the interior and of the small banks, which do not commonly carry bonds of the classes prescribed by the Aldrich bill, especially railroad bonds. They do their business in the main in commercial paper, and they want it adopted as security for issue of circulation. It is not unlikely that in its final analysis a compromise will be made on the measure, somewhat as follows:

Circulation may be issued against deposits of Federal, State, and municipal bonds; of railroad bonds up to a fixed percentage of their face value; and against commercial paper to a certain percentage of its value. Thus the list of securities fixed by the Aldrich bill would be enlarged by simply adding commercial paper to it.

Would Be Security Enough.

In favor of commercial paper, it is urged that it should, for such purposes, in all cases, have at least two signatures, which would pledge the estates of both signers; and that it should be indorsed by the bank putting it in circulation. Thus there would be no doubt, it is insisted, of its availability and entire security. If it were accepted up to only 75 per cent of its value, the Government's margin of security would be wide enough to make safety unquestionable.

The demand, however, that the legislation finally passed shall contain a provision for Government guarantee of deposits, continues strong. This feeling is largely responsible for the sentiment in favor of the postal savings bank legislation, which lately has been so strong that it is hoped to have an excellent chance of passing the Senate.

Aldrich Bill Is Stupid, Says Chicago Professor

CHICAGO, Feb. 7.—Prof. J. Lawrence Laughlin, head of the department of political economy in the University of Chicago, denounces the Aldrich bill in the last issue of the Journal of Political Economy as a combination of politics and ignorance, and says that it implies a naïveté on the part of Congress which would grant a child of six, but disgrace a man of sixty.

"The authors of the bill fail to comprehend," says Professor Laughlin, "that in the present state of the banks to make loans to needy borrowers was the difficulty which brought on the failures in business. The Aldrich bill is based on the supposition of supposing that a borrower in need cannot pay his debts with a certified check as well as by bank notes."

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WASHINGTON BOY WINS HONORS AT WESTERN SCHOOL

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DEMOCRATS IN DILEMMA ROOSEVELT MESSAGE

Some Members Say It's Politics to Oppose It—Some Want It, While Others Shy at It.

Democrats in Congress are as much at a loss over what to do with the Roosevelt message lately delivered and the Roosevelt policies as they would be over handling the hot end of a poker. Some things about the package of issues the President has set before the country look highly attractive to the Democratic leaders, but they are fearful lest it is loaded.

They are in the same state of mind about the whole matter as a man who fears the gift he has got is an infernal machine. William Jennings Bryan has given his commendations unreservedly to the recent message. So has Representative Bourke Cockran. In good many others of the Democratic faith in Congress have approved it, but have not done so in a public way.

Annoyance Caused.

The course taken by Bryan and Cockran has caused a little annoyance—in fact, anger and disgust among some of the House and Senate Democrats. This applies especially to Democrats of the old line, conservative type. They have been lambasting the Republican party for these many years, and now to have Democrats get up in public places and laud the utterances of a Republican President seems to them almost beyond belief. They are convinced the party and the country have surely come upon evil times when such things as these can come to pass. And so, if one glances about the corridors and the cloakrooms at the Capitol he can see Democrats in plenty counseling together and shaking their heads ominously over the ill wind that has blown out from the White House upon the party.

Conservative Democrats are saying among themselves, not so much that the President's message does not deserve support, but that it is the politics of children for the Democrats publicly to support it.

Bryan Shows Capacity.

They are saying that Bryan has once more shown his incapacity for politics by coming out for the message. They are fearful lest they will be caught in a fatal trap by the action of the Democratic leader in endorsing the President's policies. They are aware of the tendency of Republicans to quarrel over

things about so long and then get together. They are asking what would become of Democratic prospects in the campaign if the Republicans, along toward the end of Congress, should arrive at an understanding and legislate on several of the essentials of the things that President is advocating?

Such a proceeding would, of course, leave the Democrats stranded high and dry with an issue on which they could go before the country.

Instead of going about complaining that the President has stolen his political clothes, these conservatives hold that Bryan ought to be talking about the usurpation of Executive authority, the expansion of Federal authority, and the tendency to expand it further at the expense of the States; Republican extravagance, high tariff, imperialism, and the like. They are not in appeal to the country on lines of safety and sanity would get the Democratic party more votes than any agitation of the policies which its agitation hampered on in his recent message.

Party Divided.

This discrepancy of views on issues among Democrats divides the party about on the lines of the Bryan and anti-Bryan forces. In other words, there is the same schism with reference to the President's message as there is respecting Democratic Presidential candidates. Since the visit of Mr. Bryan to Washington there has been a great deal of talk to the effect that he has strengthened himself with Senators and Representatives. It is true the Democrats of Congress were extremely chary about giving to Bryan and asking him to quit the Presidential race, but there is little to show he is any more warmly supported among Democrats than he was before he came here. Southern Democrats, as a rule, tolerate Bryan, but hope some one else will be nominated, and those conservative Eastern Democrats that have been against his nomination for the most part are prepared to keep up their opposition until the convention comes. After the convention they will not be in shape to give Bryan more than perfunctory support. A great deal is said about Bryan's standing a good show of election in the coming campaign, but the truth is the Democrats in Congress are sadly at a loss over what course to take. They are not by any means a unit, the Roosevelt message has served to split their ranks still further, and they are always ready to be few signs that they will be welded together to present a solid front to the Republicans in the pre-election struggle.

SEABOARD HEADS DODGE INQUIRY BY TWO WOMEN

Williams and Ryan Agree Rather Than Undergo Federal Inquisition.

Indications are that the Government's investigation of the Seaboard Air Line railroad will come to nothing, because the two factions of stockholders in that property, rather than have the investigation prosecuted, have come to an agreement under which they have asked the Government to let them alone, and have arranged amicably for the future of the property.

Thomas F. Ryan, controls the present organization of Seaboard finances. The ancient quarrel between him and John Skelton Williams was expected to make it possible to develop some interesting revelations about the method of running the property. But so soon as the proposition of an investigation was brought forward and given publicity, the two factions got together, and the prospect of accomplishment looked dark.

While some investigation of annual reports, etc., has been made, it is understood that the general inquiry will be dropped.

Leap Year Girls Make "Dates" With Chester Merchants

CHESTER, Pa., Feb. 7.—Thomas Brennan and William McGovern, local merchants, have received flattering offers apropos of leap year. McGovern is to recognize the "girl in brown" as she enters his store on a certain day. Brennan is to give a Philadelphia theater and guarantees to bring him back to Chester safely.

The same courtesy is to be extended to Brennan by another young woman, who is to enter his store dressed in blue.

GARFIELD COLLIDES WITH SENATE RULE

Secretary Garfield, of the Interior Department, has come into collision with the new Senate rule that prevents the heads of departments, chief of bureaus, etc., sending reports or communications to the Senate unless directed or requested to do so, except through the President.

Mr. Garfield sent a draft of a bill to the Senate, and the Vice President was about to lay it before that body, when the attention was directed to the rule lately adopted. The action of Secretary Garfield caused some surprise, as it was an action of his in the first place that aroused the wrath of the Senate, and caused the rule to be adopted early this session.

Mr. Garfield went to church and returned with some friends. The parlor was too cold, so he lit a fire in the heater, using the artistically arranged paper to start it with.

Repukavitch, who had been awfully cold in the heater, faintly away. It took a doctor to revive him.

HIDES \$635 IN HEATER; WIFE THEN LIGHTS FIRE

HAZLETON, Pa., Feb. 7.—Not believing in banks, Leon Repukavitch put \$635 in a heater at his hotel at West Hazleton. Repukavitch has \$635 worth of experience, having deposited the roll with some old paper in a disused heater in his parlor.

Mrs. Repukavitch went to church and returned with some friends. The parlor was too cold, so she lit a fire in the heater, using the artistically arranged paper to start it with.

Repukavitch, who had been awfully cold in the heater, faintly away. It took a doctor to revive him.

PRESIDENT'S RANGE OF FRIENDS WIDE

Socially an Aristocrat, He Keeps Society and Politics Separate.

During the years of President Roosevelt's tenure in the White House, friends and enemies alike have often expressed wonderment at the fact that the President's social and political and personal friendships and relationships are so remarkably different. It has often been observed that socially the President is an aristocrat, associating with the most exclusive circles of the New York Four Hundred; that politically he is a democrat; and that personally he is a sort of polypoid—he talks and thinks in the language of every class from the cowboy to the multi-millionaire and the scholar. He has time for the trapper and for the literary specialist, and he knows what they are both getting at.

The dinner which he attended the other evening, given by Postmaster General Meyer, illustrates this aspect of the President's character. The guests were of the correctest section of the Newport-New York aristocracy, and the President was perfectly at home with them. He belongs, in his private capacity, to their circle. He was born in the purple, as it were. He knows these people as old friends.

At the Meyer dinner were one or two of the most exclusive circles of the New York Four Hundred; that politically he is a democrat; and that personally he is a sort of polypoid—he talks and thinks in the language of every class from the cowboy to the multi-millionaire and the scholar. He has time for the trapper and for the literary specialist, and he knows what they are both getting at.

Did anybody make an unkind remark about the President's association with these people whom Democrats as a rule do not regard as strictly of his sort? By no means. Nobody ever has done so. He has always done that. These people are the life-long friends and intimates of the President; that he maintains the forms of intercourse with them, as he has always done; that he belongs in their circle, and rather likes occasionally to mix with them. But to assume that this association makes him the least loyal to his professions as a true-blue democrat "clear down to the ground"—why, nobody has ever made such an untrue statement as to the disadvantage of the President.

Yet it is a common remark that there has not been a President in fifty years who could have done these things. Mr. Roosevelt has done them, without injuring himself politically.

House Devotes Time to Talking About Message

Not since the outbreak of the Spanish-American war has the House of Representatives been deluged by such a flood of oratory as it has this week. The President's message calling upon Congress for "purification legislation" lifted the flood gates that held back the storm.

As early as Monday it was hoped that the Indian appropriation bill could be put on its passage. Since that time although every minute has been given to general debate, there has been no mention of the Indians.

Representative Townsend started the oratory by his speech, claiming that the credit for railroad legislation should go to the President and the Republican party.

General Sherwood (Rep., Ohio), chastised a memorable address in which he spoke of the President's inconsistencies. Representative W. Bourke Cockran (Dem., N. Y.), in a masterly effort, praised the President's recent message, Colonel Hepburn (Rep., Iowa), created a stir by saying some one would get run over by the President's policies were not incorporated into law.

Tuesday the speeches were equally notable. Minority Leader Williams, after consulting with Democratic leaders in the House and Senate and with William Jennings Bryan, outlined the Democratic legislative policy. This gave Representative Frank Nye (Rep., Minn.) a chance to get off some fine Republican vituperations. The day was concluded by the remarkable maiden effort of Representative Frank Nye (Rep., Minn.), a brother of "Bill" Nye, demanding Roosevelt legislation.

Wednesday Republican Floor Leader Payne promised to carry out the Roosevelt policies, and ridiculed the Democratic legislative campaign. Representative Thomas (Dem., N. C.) pleaded for tariff reform. It remained, however, for Representative Nelson, a La Follette Republican, to charge that it was the rules of the House that kept the immediate adoption of the Roosevelt policies.

SENATE FLIES FLAG BETOKENING DISTRESS

Excitement was caused about the Capitol yesterday morning by the United States flag being displayed on the Senate annex upside down.

This signal of distress led to wild rumors that the President had another message in stock and was once more prepared to turn loose the Big Stick on the hapless lawmakers who were calling for help.

It developed, however, it was merely a mistake of the man in charge of the flag and in a short time it was floating in the proper fashion.

BUSINESS HIGH CLASS ENTERTAINS ITS FRIENDS

Midyear class exercises were held last night by the members of the graduating class of the Business High School. The assembly hall was filled with parents and friends of the students.

Warren L. Heap, president of the class, opened the exercises with an address of welcome, after which Miss Sarah Roberts gave the history of the class. Miss Helen Moore read the class poem, and Thomas E. McHale, the class prophet, the valedictory was delivered by Albert G. Norton,